

Rich Nations Should Pay Poor To Cut Emissions: De Boer

Yvo de Boer, executive secretary of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change, says developed countries shouldn't have to cut emissions if they pay developing countries to do it on their behalf. de Boer says the idea that both rich and poor countries need to cut emissions together is illogical, adding that the scale of the problem means that countries should be allowed to invest in emission cuts wherever it is cheapest. "We have been reducing emissions and making energy use more efficient in industrialised countries for a long time," says de Boer. "So it is quite expensive in these nations to reduce emissions any more. But in developing nations, less has been done to reduce emissions and less has been done to address energy efficiency." He says it becomes economically attractive for a company in a country with an emissions target to achieve its goal by reducing emissions in a developing country. Responding to criticism of his comments from environmental groups, de Boer says the atmosphere doesn't care where emissions are reduced as long as they are reduced. "Most of the cheapest emissions reduction possibilities are in developing countries. The carbon market can be used to catalyse these. So in terms of the maximum result at the lowest possible cost, it does not matter where emissions are reduced."

[Source essa news]